

REMARKS

Claims 1-10, as amended, are pending in this application. In this Response, Applicants have amended certain claims. In particular, Applicants have amended claims 1, 2, and 3 to clarify that, in one embodiment, the present invention includes a corpus database operatively connected to hold data which is paragraph, position information in a text of each paragraph, and estimation of paragraph. Claims 8, 9, and 10 have also been amended to clarify that the importance degree may be estimated based on the combination attribute using a data which is paragraph, position information in a text of each paragraph, and estimation of paragraph. Other claims have been amended to overcome various formalities.

In light of the Office Action, Applicants believe these amendments serve a useful clarification purpose, independent of patentability. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the claim amendments do not limit the range of any permissible equivalents. As no new matter has been added, Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments at this time.

THE OBJECTIONS TO THE CLAIMS

At page 2, the Examiner objected to claims 3 and 6 for various formalities. In response, Applicants have amended claims 3 and 6 in the manner shown above. In light of these amendments, Applicants submit that the Examiner's rejections have been overcome. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

THE REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

At pages 3-5 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4 and 7-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2006/0059138 to Milic-Frayling *et al.* ("Milic") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,915,249 to Spencer ("Spencer"). Additionally, at pages 5-6 the Examiner rejected claims 5-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Milic in view of Spencer, and further in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0220747 to Vailaya *et al.* ("Vailaya"). For at least the reasons set forth below, Applicants submit that the Examiner's rejections have been traversed.

Milic discloses a facility for highlighting documents accessed through search or browsing. When accessing documents identified as relevant by a search engine, the facility provides information highlighting to assist the user in determining whether the document is relevant. *See*

Abstract. A model of the user's interest is used to take into account the general interest of the user as captured by an interest profile and context of use of the computer by the user. *Id.* The highlighting of information about the document content may include highlighting of the terminology in the text, scrolling of the document to the relevant passages, and identification of entity names and entity relations. *Id.*

The second reference cited by the Examiner, Spencer, discloses a system and method for accelerated query evaluation of very large full-text databases. The system provides for improved information retrieval in very large document databases through the use of a predetermined static cache. *See* Abstract. The static cache includes a plurality of documents ordered by a contribution that the term makes to the document score of the document. *Id.* Queries to the database are then processed by first traversing the static cache and obtaining the contribution information therefrom and computing the document score from this information. *Id.*

Moreover, Vailaya discloses a system and method for importing data from multiple sources and of multiple formats and categories. *See* Abstract. Relevant data is extracted from the multiple sources and then represented in a local format that can be used for direct comparisons of data across diverse data types or categories and for overlaying data types over one another. *Id.* Reverse mapping of relevant data into a different data type or category can also be performed. *Id.*

In contrast, the present invention as recited in claim 1 comprises a text information generating apparatus. The apparatus includes an attribute input section operatively connected to receive at least one artificial attribute associated with a paragraph. A discourse structure attribute generating section is also operatively connected to generate a discourse structure attribute that is associated with the paragraph. Also included is a paragraph length ratio attribute related to a ratio of a number of characters in the paragraph to the number of characters of a matching pattern matched with the paragraph.

A combination attribute generating section operatively connects to generate a combination attribute based on at least two of the artificial attribute, the discourse structure attribute, and the paragraph length ratio attribute. Preferably, an importance degree estimating section and an important paragraph determining section are also included. A text output interface provides information of the text that is based on the determination of the important paragraph determining section.

As shown above, Applicants have amended claims 1, 2, and 3 to clarify that, in one embodiment, the present invention includes a corpus database operatively connected to hold data which is paragraph, position information in a text of each paragraph, and estimation of paragraph. Moreover, independent claims 8, 9, and 10 have also been amended to clarify that the importance degree may be estimated based on the combination attribute using a data which is paragraph, position information in a text of each paragraph, and estimation of paragraph.

Milic does not teach or suggest estimating an importance degree using data which is paragraph, position information in a text of each paragraph, and estimation of paragraph in the corpus database. Further, both Spencer and Vailaya fail to cure the deficiencies of Milic, *i.e.*, neither reference teaches or suggests estimating an importance degree using data which is paragraph, position information in a text of each paragraph, and estimation of paragraph in the corpus database.

In light of these deficiencies, the Examiner's § 103 rejections have been overcome. As such, Applicants submit that independent claims 1-3 and 8-10 are in condition for allowance. Applicants further submit that claims 4-7 are in condition for allowance at least by virtue of their dependency on claims 1 and 5, but also for additional novel features recited therein. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested.


CONCLUSION

All claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that the present amendments and remarks still do not resolve all of the issues regarding patentability of the pending claims, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned attorneys to discuss any remaining issues.

A Petition for Extension of Time is submitted herewith extending the time for response three months to and including March 14, 2007. No other fees are believed to be due at this time. Should any fee be required, however, please charge such fee to Bingham McCutchen LLP Deposit Account No. 195127, Order No. 19546.0050.

Respectfully submitted,
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